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FM AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN  
TO THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9619

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN 000695

WHITE HOUSE FOR NEC/GSPERLING AND NSC

E.O. 12958: N/A

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OVIP (CLINTON, WILLIAM J.)

SUBJECT: SULTAN OF BRUNEI'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CLINTON CONCERNING APEC

¶1. FOLLOWING IS AN ADVANCE COPY OF SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOKIAH'S LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT REGARDING THE AGENDA FOR THE NOVEMBER 15-16 APEC LEADERS MEETING IN BRUNEI. WE EXPECT THAT BRUNEI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL DELIVER THE ORIGINAL.

¶2. BEGIN TEXT OF SULTAN'S LETTER.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I AM VERY PLEASED THAT YOU WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE INFORMAL APEC ECONOMIC LEADERS' MEETING IN BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN ON 15-16 NOVEMBER.

WE WILL GATHER AGAIN THIS YEAR HAVING FURTHER CONSOLIDATED THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND HAVING CONTINUED THE DIFFICULT PROCESS OF STRUCTURAL REFORM SO IMPORTANT FOR CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF ALL ECONOMIES IN THE REGION. OUR FINANCE MINISTERS, AT THEIR MEETING IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM IN SEPTEMBER, HAVE CAUTIONED AGAINST COMPLACENCY IN THESE EFFORTS AND HAVE DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE KEY ISSUES NEEDED TO SECURE FINANCIAL STABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND TO THE POTENTIAL RISKS AHEAD.

THESE ISSUES ARE ALL IMPORTANT FACTORS IN THE PROCESS OF MANAGING GLOBALISATION WHICH I BELIEVE IS THE MAJOR CHALLENGE BEFORE US AT THIS TIME. I AM THEREFORE SUGGESTING THAT THIS BE THE SUBJECT OF OUR RETREAT ON THE MORNING OF 16 NOVEMBER. I WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD BE ONE OF THE LEAD SPEAKERS ON THIS TOPIC. I KNOW THAT SOME LEADERS MAY ALSO WANT TO RAISE THEIR CONCERN OVER INSTABILITY IN THE PRICE OF OIL AND I PROPOSE THAT THIS BE DONE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MORNING RETREAT. I OUTLINED SOME OF THE ISSUES WHICH I THOUGHT WERE IMPORTANT FOR OUR DISCUSSION ON GLOBALIZATION AND ITS STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN MY EARLIER LETTER TO YOU AND I AM ENCOURAGED BY POSITIVE RESPONSES FROM LEADERS. OUR OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO BEEN PREPARING BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR US FOR THIS DISCUSSION WHICH SHOWS SOME OF APEC'S KEY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUCCESSES IN GLOBALIZATION AND SOME OF THE ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE.

WHILE THESE ISSUES HAVE BEEN THE FOCUS OF MANY FORUMS THIS YEAR, I BELIEVE THAT BECAUSE APEC BRINGS TOGETHER A DIVERSE RANGE OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING ECONOMIES, WE ARE IN A POSITION TO SHOW LEADERSHIP AND MAKE A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION. WE SHOULD BE STRIVING TO SHOW OUR COMMUNITIES THAT APEC'S BALANCED AGENDA OF MARKET OPENING AND CAPACITY BUILDING CAN MAKE GLOBALISATION AND THE REVOLUTION IN TECHNOLOGY AN INCLUSIVE PROCESS WHICH, WHEN EFFECTIVELY MANAGED, WILL PROVIDE GROWTH AND HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS FOR ALL SECTIONS OF OUR ECONOMIES. WE SHOULD BE REALISTIC ABOUT THE CHALLENGES BUT IT IS EquALLY IMPORTANT TO PROVIDE CONFIDENCE WITH A CREDIBLE COURSE OF ACTION.

IN THIS RESPECT, I AM PLEASED TO LEARN FROM MY

OFFICIALS THAT MANY ECONOMIES HAVE OFFERED TO INITIATE ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF OUR ECONOMIES TO TAKE UP THE ADVANTAGES OF GLOBALIZATION. THESE PROGRAMS, DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN OUR KNOWLEDGE BASE, OUR MARKETS AND OUR HUMAN RESOURCES, GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AS THE CONDUIT TO THE SO-CALLED NEW ECONOMY. TOGETHER THEY PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR TAKING CAPACITY BUILDING AND COMMERCE TO THE WIDEST SPECTRUM OF OUR ECONOMIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN DEVELOPING ECONOMIES WHO ARE YET TO SEE THE FULL BENEFITS.

FOLLOWING THE MORNING SESSION AND AN INFORMAL LUNCHEON WHERE COLLEAGUES WILL BE FREE TO DISCUSS ISSUES AMONG THEMSELVES, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE CONTINUE OUR RETREAT FOCUSING ON THE WTO AND DEVELOPMENTS IN REGIONAL TRADING ARRANGEMENTS.

AS A REGION, OUR STAKE IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM HAS PERHAPS NEVER BEEN GREATER. I AM SURE THEREFORE THAT WE ARE ALL CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE WTO AND WILL WANT TO STRESS IN CLEAR TERMS THE IMPORTANCE OF A SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING OF A NEW ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. OUR DISCUSSIONS WILL ENABLE US TO SHARE VIEWS ON WAYS IN WHICH APEC CAN CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRESS AND HOW WE CAN COOPERATE IN CAPACITY BUILDING TO ENSURE THAT WE CAN ALL MOVE FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE AND DETERMINATION.

THE AFTERNOON RETREAT WILL ALSO PROVIDE AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO EXCHANGE VIEWS INFORMALLY ON THE NATURE AND RATIONALE OF EMERGING REGIONAL TRADING ARRANGEMENTS. I WOULD ENCOURAGE THIS DISCUSSION TO BE FORWARD-LOOKING SO THAT WE CAN DEVELOP A CLEARER PICTURE OF HOW SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WILL HELP ADVANCE OUR COMMON GOALS.

I KNOW THAT ABAC HAS BEEN DISCUSSING BOTH GLOBALISATION AND TRADE ISSUES THIS YEAR AND I EXPECT THAT OUR DIALOGUE WITH ABAC MEMBERS ON THE AFTERNOON OF 15 NOVEMBER WILL ENRICH OUR RETREAT DISCUSSIONS. SEVERAL LEADERS WILL ALSO BE INTERACTING WITH BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES AT THE CEO SUMMIT ON 14-15 NOVEMBER.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE ART EXHIBITION BY YOUNG ARTISTS FROM OUR APEC ECONOMIES. YOUR VIEWING OF THE EXHIBITION AND INTERACTION WITH THE ARTISTS AFTER THE CLOSE OF OUR MEETINGS ON 15 NOVEMBER WILL SEND AN ENCOURAGING SIGNAL TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT THE VALUE WE PLACE ON MAINTAINING CULTURAL IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION IN THE PROCESS OF COMMUNITY BUILDING.

IN THE LAST 10 YEARS WE HAVE ANTICIPATED MANY OF THE CHALLENGES AHEAD AND HAVE BEGUN OUR PREPARATIONS. GIVEN THE TASK AHEAD AND WIDESPREAD CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE, I BELIEVE THAT THE LEADERS' DECLARATION SHOULD PROVIDE A CLEAR AND DECISIVE VISION OF THE FUTURE AND ONE WHICH WILL GIVE GREATER CONFIDENCE TO ALL PARTS OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

I LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO WELCOMING YOU IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEXT MONTH.

YOURS SINCERELY,  
/////  
SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH  
OF BRUNEI

END OF TEXT.

STANFIELD